

North Wilts District Council

Equality Impact Assessment Form

Please read the guidance notes before completing this form.

1. What is the name of the policy or service that is being assessed?

Capital Strategy

2. What are the aims of the policy or service? Whose needs is it designed to meet?
What are the current priorities?

This strategy is a high level summary of the Council's approach to Capital Investment. It describes how the deployment of Capital resources, and those the Council can influence, contributes towards improving the economic, social and environmental well being of the area incorporating the aims and priorities set out the Community Strategy and Corporate Plan.

The objective of the Capital strategy is threefold. Namely, to ensure that: -

- physical assets and related resources are efficiently and effectively used to support the corporate objectives.
- issues related to property and other assets are fully reflected in the Council's planning,
- the strategy itself is in a format that can be readily understood.

The Capital Strategy provides the policy framework for the operational work of asset management as detailed in the Asset Management Plan (AMP).

Key Priorities:

- The Council owns land and buildings and is aware of the need to use these assets in the most effective way for everyone's benefit.
- The Council will seek to use its assets to assist partners and businesses, in the wider context of achieving the corporate plan.
- The Council will seek to use receipts from assets no longer required to provide capital for the achievement of the service objectives. The receipts from asset sales are the main source of finance for the capital programme and enable a larger and more sustainable programme than would otherwise be the case. This includes providing funding for affordable homes and other capital schemes designed to improve quality of life for all the residents of North Wiltshire.

3. In what ways might this policy or service affect some groups of people differently?
Might some groups find it harder to access the service? Do some groups have particular needs that are not well met by the current policy or service?

The Capital Strategy relates to physical assets and related resources. It is the use of these resources that will impact upon people, so the impact of the strategy will be indirect. However, the groups of people who use (or may use) a particular asset would need to be considered as appropriate, when an asset sale or change is being proposed.

If the Council does spend all its capital by 2013 (as predicted in the Strategy) this will have an impact on all Council Tax payers, as the interest from our current capital investments supports our revenue service budgets.

4. What evidence do you have for your judgement? Is there evidence of public concern (e.g. complaints)? Have staff raised concerns? Is there local or national research to suggest that there could be a problem?

Evidence would need to be gathered and assessed as appropriate linked to particular asset decisions.

5. Who have you consulted with as part of your assessment? What were the results? Have you published the results of that consultation? If so, where?

The Capital Strategy is a required document of the Council, as part of its budget and policy framework. Consultation on the Strategy is internal as it is about asset management. Consultation on the change or use of particular assets may be appropriate if particular groups of people are likely to be affected by any proposed change.

6. If you have found that the policy or service might have an adverse impact on a particular group of people, can you justify this?

N/a

7. If the impact cannot be justified, what do you intend to do about this? Are there changes that you could introduce which would make the policy or service work better for this group of people? Is further research or consultation required?

N/a

8. How will you monitor the take-up or impact of the policy or service in future?

The impact of the Capital Strategy will be monitored by checking that the equality and diversity implications are addressed in all asset decisions.

9. What actions do you plan to take as a result of this equality impact assessment? Please state any resource implications.

Ensure that equality and diversity implications are addressed in all asset decisions (and capital programme budget bids). Where the decision is made by a member body, these implications will be set out in the report. Where a decision is made under delegated powers by an officer, a record of the equality and diversity implications addressed will be made and kept with the details of the decision.

10. There is a legal requirement to publish the outcomes of Equality Impact Assessments. Please outline how / where this will happen.

It is suggested that this takes place via the North Wilts District Council Website, alongside any other EIAs that need to be published.

11. Name of person completing form

Val Cradock, Financial Consultant

Date assessment completed 19 April 2006